

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, and 8, and add new claim 9 as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (currently amended) An electronic settlement system for allowing payment for goods ~~purchased by the user to be performed on a network~~ a purchase from a virtual shop ~~on the a network via~~ by a purchaser using a terminal connected to said network, comprising:

a paying method presenting unit which, when ~~a payment instruction from the user is received,~~ presents a paying method using a prepaid type electronic money by a sale on said network to said user via said terminal; said shop receives verification from said terminal that said purchaser would like to make the purchase, sends a message to said terminal directing said purchaser to pay using prepaid electronic money and asking whether said purchaser already owns prepaid electronic money, and if said purchaser does not already own prepaid electronic money, sending an inquiry to said terminal asking whether said purchaser would like to buy a set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network;

a settlement unit which makes a settlement of via said network for a purchase charge of said price when prepaid type electronic money on said network is bought on behalf of said purchaser; and

an electronic money purchasing unit which, when ~~the payment an~~ an instruction by to buy said set amount of prepaid type electronic money is received from ~~the user~~ said purchaser via said terminal, purchases said set amount of prepaid type electronic money ~~in place of said user on over~~ in place of said user on over said network ~~by the settlement in on behalf of said purchaser aided by said settlement unit, on the basis of the presentation of said paying method, and notifies the user said purchaser of a balance of said prepaid type electronic money obtained by subtracting a payment money amount for said purchased goods from said purchased prepaid type electronic money and an identification number allocated to said the prepaid type electronic money that has been purchased and reports a balance remaining after payment for the purchase is subtracted from said set amount of prepaid electronic money.~~

2. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein a prepaid electronic money company and a settlement institution of said prepaid ~~type~~ electronic money are connected to said network, and said settlement unit purchases said prepaid ~~type~~ electronic money from said prepaid ~~type~~ electronic money company and makes a settlement of a payment charge of said prepaid ~~type~~ electronic money with said settlement institution.

3. (original) A system according to claim 2, wherein said settlement unit makes the settlement in accordance with an SET (Secure Electronic Transactions).

4. (currently amended) A system according to claim 3, wherein a wallet service providing company for providing ~~a wallet serving~~ as an electronic wallet is connected to said network, and said settlement unit makes the settlement by using said electronic wallet.

5. (original) A system according to claim 4, wherein said settlement is a debit settlement using the Internet.

6. (original) A system according to claim 4, wherein said settlement is a credit settlement using the Internet.

7. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said paying method presenting unit, said electronic money purchasing unit, and said settlement unit are provided for said virtual shop.

8. (currently amended) A computer readable medium that stores a control program for an electronic settlement in an electronic settlement system for allowing payment for ~~goods purchased by the user to be performed on a network~~ a purchase from a virtual shop on ~~the a network via~~ by a purchaser using a terminal connected to said network, wherein said control program allows a computer to execute:

a paying method presenting step which, when ~~a payment instruction from said user is received~~, presents a paying method using a prepaid type electronic money by a ~~sale on said network to said user via said terminal~~; said shop receives verification from said terminal that said purchaser would like to make the purchase, sends a message to said terminal directing said purchaser to pay using prepaid electronic money and asking whether said purchaser already owns prepaid electronic money, and if said purchaser does not already own prepaid electronic money, sending an inquiry to said terminal asking whether said purchaser would like to buy a set amount of prepaid electronic money over said network;

a settlement step which makes a settlement of via said network for a purchase charge of said price when prepaid type electronic money on said network is bought on behalf of said purchaser; and

an electronic money purchasing step which, when ~~the payment an~~ instruction by to buy said set amount of prepaid type electronic money is received from said ~~user purchaser~~ via said terminal, purchases said set amount of prepaid type electronic money in place of said user on over said network by the settlement in on behalf of said purchaser in conjunction with said settlement step, on the basis of the presentation of said paying method, and notifies said ~~user purchaser~~ of a balance of said ~~prepaid type electronic money obtained by subtracting a payment money amount for said purchased goods from said purchased prepaid type electronic money~~ and an identification number allocated to said the prepaid type electronic money that has been purchased and reports a balance remaining after payment for the purchase is subtracted from said set amount of prepaid electronic money.

9. (new) A system according to claim 1, wherein the identification number is received by the electronic money purchasing unit when the set amount of prepaid electronic money is purchased, and the electronic money purchasing unit performs a subtraction operation on the basis of the identification number to determine the balance remaining.